

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation. It is clearly illegal for a corporate broadcast conglomerate to use its influence to sway the results of an election.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to STRENGTHEN media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve a heavier degree of scrutiny than is currently the case.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter, as well as issues of global interest. Much of the reason that Americans are seen as ethnocentric and geocentric by the rest of the world is because of the lack of availability of global news.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard.